

□ 1919

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, because of a previously scheduled event which required my attendance at a high school in my congressional district this evening, I missed the three rollcall votes under suspension of the rules today. In conjunction with the Loudoun County Public Schools' Academy of Science, I had invited Dr. Robert Ballard, founder of the JASON project, to speak to students and parents at Dominion High School in Loudoun County about the importance of science education in our Nation's schools. JASON is funded through the Science-State-Justice-Commerce appropriations subcommittee which I chair. Dr. Ballard also is the explorer-in residence at the National Geographic Society and discoverer of the RMS Titanic shipwreck.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yes" on H.J. Res. 81, providing for the appointment of Phillip Frost as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; H. Res. 703, recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and H. Res. 744, expression support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland and support for continued police reform in Northern Ireland as a critical element in the peace process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to increased traffic resulting from the 2006 NCAA Final Four in Indianapolis, I was unavoidably detained in my home district and unable to record my vote for rollcall votes 82–84. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 4297, the tax reconciliation conference report.

The form of the motion is as follows:

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4297 be instructed—

(1) to agree to the provisions of section 102 (relating to credit for elective deferrals and IRA contributions), and section 108 (relating to extension and modification of research credit), of the Senate amendment,

(2) to agree to the provisions of section 106 of the Senate amendment (relating to exten-

sion and increase in minimum tax relief to individuals),

(3) to recede from the provisions of the House bill that extend the lower tax rate on dividends and capital gains that would otherwise terminate at the close of 2008, and

(4) to the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, to insist on a conference report which will neither increase the Federal budget deficit nor increase the amount of the debt subject to the public debt limit.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 754) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 754

Resolved, That the following Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Science: Mr. Neugebauer to rank after Mr. Feeney, and Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SADDAM HUSSEIN CHARGED WITH GENOCIDE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the Iraqi tribunal recently announced additional charges against Iraq's former dictator. These include genocide, crimes against humanity, and the use of chemical weapons on thousands of innocent civilians.

The new case involves Saddam's role in "Operation Anfal," which resulted in 5,000 men, women and children being murdered through a gas attack on their village.

One of the pieces of evidence to be presented at the trial is a government decree signed by Saddam in 1987 in which he ordered special artillery bombs to kill as many people as possible in the Kurdish area.

This new case clearly shows that the world is indeed a safer place without Saddam Hussein, and it shows the progress being made in Iraq as the Iraqi people are finally able to seek justice through their legal system.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on March 30 I was detained on official business at the installation and inauguration of the Prime Minister of Jamaica as part of the congressional delegation that was authorized by the Speaker and therefore I was not

present on the following rollcall votes. Rollcall vote No. 75, the rule, if present, I would have voted "no," H. Res. 742.

Rollcall vote No. 76, the Pelosi resolution, if present, I would have voted "no" on the motion to table.

Rollcall vote No. 77, on the Gohmert amendment, if present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote No. 78, the Kennedy of Rhode Island amendment, if present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote No. 79, the King of Iowa amendment, if present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote No. 80, the Miller substitute, if present, I would have voted "yes."

And on final passage, rollcall vote No. 81, if present, I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATING NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPION FLORIDA GATORS

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my University of Florida basketball team for winning the first NCAA basketball championship for any college or university in the State of Florida. Go Gators.

Last night the Gators finished their run of winning six games in the tournament, winning by an average of 16 point per game.

The waltz was all blue and orange.

The Final Four's most outstanding player, Joakim Noah, certainly deserves the praise. He broke the title record with six blocked shots, in addition to 16 points, nine rebounds and three assists. He also owns the tournament record of 29 blocks.

Coach Billy Donovan deserves credit for building this team from scratch and teaching the players how to win and act like champions. On behalf of all of the people of Florida, I want to say, "Go Gators."

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN BORLAUG

(Mr. LEACH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, when all is said and done, what defines our country is the people who are the American family.

In a world which today is rife with conflict, it is particularly appropriate to pause and give recognition to an individual who has dedicated his life to bringing hope and sustenance to the family of man. No one symbolizes a sense of common purpose and community more than a native son of Iowa, Norman Borlaug.

In the spring of 1941, the newly elected Vice President of the United States,

another son of the Iowa soil, Henry Wallace, attended his first Cabinet meeting and suggested that the greatest challenge of the era involved the need to develop higher yielding crops in the developing world. Franklin Roosevelt's preoccupation at the time was presumably on the war in Europe and the possibility that the United States would soon become engaged. Accordingly, he suggested that Wallace, an agronomist credited with the development of hybrid corn, contact principals of the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation in New York to see if they would be interested in advancing such a project, initially in Mexico. They were and they did. The individual they selected to lead the initiative was Norman Borlaug, who three decades later received the Nobel Peace Prize for pioneering leadership of the Green Revolution, the astonishing biogenetic advancement which saved the lives of millions on the planet.

The Congress and the American people have reason to suggest with pride that part of the American family is this gentle scientist from Cresco, Iowa. We honor him tonight and thank him for his service to humanity.

GATORS WIN IT ALL

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, as a proud University of Florida alumnus who bleeds orange and blue, I too want to add my congratulations to the Gator men's basketball team on winning their first national championship last night. The University of Florida is renowned and has always excelled in academics, and has been noted for their accomplishments on the football field. Now we can add basketball to the list of accomplishments.

The Gator nation continues to make its mark and make her alumni and the Gator family proud.

Mr. Speaker, I have only one additional thing to say and that is, 2 bits, 4 bits, 6 bits, a dollar, all for the Gators, stand up and holler. Go Gators.

HONORING NORMAN BORLAUG

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today also to honor Dr. Norman Borlaug, whose contributions have unquestionably made the world a better place.

Dr. Borlaug grew up in Iowa, but earned his Ph.D. in 1942 at the University of Minnesota in my home State. Go Gophers.

In 1944 Dr. Borlaug participated in a project to boost wheat production that began in Mexico and spread to India, Pakistan and Africa. The project

sparked the Green Revolution that literally saved millions, hundreds of millions of lives.

In recognition for these efforts, Dr. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970, the only person to have received the award in either the agriculture or food production fields.

On behalf of all Minnesotans I would like to congratulate Dr. Borlaug on his distinguished career and remarkable contributions, and thank my good friend, TOM LATHAM of Iowa, for his leadership on this matter.

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THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as the world prepares to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, I rise in support of House Resolution 703 recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

The scope of the devastation that followed that explosion was truly unprecedented. More than 600,000 emergency workers, liquidators, risked their lives putting out the reactor's inferno that raged for 10 days while exposing themselves to extremely high and deadly doses of radiation. Hundreds of thousands of people were forced to leave their homes because of radioactive contamination. More than 5 million people in Ukraine, Belarus, and Western Russia found themselves coping with life in towns and villages contaminated by iodine and cesium.

In the RECORD I will place a full statement regarding this resolution as well as support from the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and the Chernobyl Children's Project International for the incredible work that they continue to do two decades later in dealing with the devastation that still lives.

HONORING DR. NORMAN BORLAUG

(Mr. LATHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Norman Borlaug is an American superhero that few people have ever heard of.

Dr. Borlaug's campaign to save the lives of the world's neediest people through agricultural science deserves special recognition.

How many lives has he saved? Dr. Borlaug's innovative leadership in plant breeding and agricultural production is credited with saving the lives of nearly 1 billion people from starvation. That is right: one billion souls.

In 1994 he was given the task of researching high-yield and disease-resistant cereal grains. Through trial and error, Dr. Borlaug's successful efforts led to the development of varieties of wheat that completely altered production agriculture as it was known then in places like Pakistan and India and Mexico.

The dwarf wheat variety he developed allowed farmers to produce far more grain per acre than anyone could have predicted. This newfound bounty gave the world's poorest people access to food, ensuring that children, who would have been victims of malnutrition, could thrive. His landmark discoveries in agriculture led to what is called today the "Green Revolution."

Dr. Borlaug is a legendary figure within the agricultural community, and his name is held in high regard around the world. However, this Cresco, Iowa, native is a very modest man who once said that his accomplishments were "a temporary success in man's war against hunger and deprivation."

Almost 40 years since receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, he continues at age 92 to work for improvement of mankind.

For this reason I introduced H.R. 4924, which is a bill to award Dr. Norman Borlaug the Congressional Gold Medal for his lifetime of service to the world.

Dr. Borlaug's leadership has inspired so many of our best and brightest students to pursue careers in agricultural sciences. His work and the work of future innovators will live on in the lives of those who have been spared the misery of starvation.

I ask my colleagues to consider adding their names to H.R. 4924 so that we can officially recognize this great humanitarian.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IS INCOMPLETE

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, campaign finance reform is incomplete. So many years ago this House and the Senate passed what was called BCRA, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, and you know what? It created a glaring loophole that led to the rise in the 527 groups where a half billion dollars flowed through these groups that are not subjected to the Federal Elections Commission laws, rules, and regulations.

So this week this House is going to take on the need for clamping down on these rogue groups that funnel campaign money in noncampaign entities. It is important for us, as leaders of this country, to have full disclosure of people that participate in politics. So I am proud that this House is going to do what is right and reform 527s and apply the Federal elections law to them. And that is what this House is going to do.